ABSTRACT

There is provided an image [encode] encoding apparatus which com-
prises a generation means for generating a prediction error from an
[encode] encoding target pixel value and a prediction value of the
[encode] encoding target pixel value, a judgment means for generating
a generation frequency distribution of the prediction error to judge
whether or not the generation frequency distribution is discrete and an
entropy [encode] encoding means for changing [encode] encoding data
corresponding to the prediction error and performing entropy encoding
on the obtained [encode] encoding data, in accordance with a judged
result by the judgment means. Therefore, the encoding can be effectively
performed even on such [the] image data having the discrete pixel value
as in a CG image, a limited-color image or the like.